

## **Obituary - Dr Maureen Aitken**

The Women's College is saddened to announce that Past Principal, Dr Maureen Aitken (1991-2008) passed away on Thursday 9 July 2020. Dr Aitken had a very significant influence in the life of the College and the UQ Colleges community throughout her tenure. She was the second-longest serving Principal of Women's College, had also been Vice-Principal from April 1990 prior to her appointment as Principal, and became a Fellow of the College in 2010.

Dr Aitken held a BA with First Class Honours in French Language and Literature, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education and a PhD from the University of Queensland. She was previously Head of Modern Languages at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, lecturer in Humanities at the Queensland University of Technology, and part-time lecturer in Foreign Languages at the UQ School of Music and Queensland Conservatorium of Music. In 2007, she was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University for her work in College, in the University, and as one of the founding members of the Rockefeller Foundation sponsored group, Women's Education Worldwide. Dr Aitken also took a very active part in Australian college, university and alumni activities. She was at various times: President of The University of Queensland Chapter of the Australian Heads of Colleges Association, President of the Alumni Association of the University of Queensland, Vice-President of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Federation of University Women, an Executive Member of the Australian Universities Alumni Council, Secretary of the National Association of Heads of Australian University Colleges and Halls of Residence and a member of the Department of Education's Curriculum Development Committee and Language Reference Group.

Dr Aitken was a gracious, compassionate, inspirational Principal of the College and is remembered by her students for her wonderful, warm, embracing outlook. She was much-loved and deeply-admired by everyone who knew her in the College community.